



TRANSNATIONAL LITERATURE

When Evie Dances for Evie

When Evie dances, generations
whisper their sustained applause,
ghostly fans aflutter with emotion
in their unseen hands. Those Han women
whose genes are hers have waited
centuries for this – to see a child who bears
their legacy reclaim mobility –
not only walking without pain, but also
running unconstrained, and see! Such
unimagined leaps, as if to conquer gravity!

Agile as an acrobat, poised as a funambulist,
a great-granddaughter's liberty
represents their chance. Sloughing off
the bandages that forced the hurting,
halting gait, their shades assemble
in the wings, weightless and entranced.

Nobody has told her of these women,
yet she senses them – the nameless,
sublimated audience her feet obey,
the trajectory impelling her
beyond convention's bounds.

Jena Woodhouse

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